## IN THE TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Please change the Title of the Invention back to the original: -SYSTEM AND

METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING COUPONS THROUGH A SYSTEM OF COMPUTER

NETWORKS-.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, before line 2, delete the 12 paragraphs added by the Supplemental

Preliminary Amendment file April 3, 2000, and insert therefor the following 4

paragraphs:

According to an aspect of the present invention, a processing system comprises a first computer, the processing system being for a second system including second computer, a plurality of portable cards transported by consumers, each card containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals. The second system further includes a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a signal corresponding to a product received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable card in the plurality of cards, the memory signal corresponding to the product; and a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable card in the plurality of cards, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is a method in a system including a store, a plurality of portable cards each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links. The method comprises sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers; receiving a signal corresponding to a product, sent in the previous step, and the step, performed in one of the homes, of sending, responsive to the signal received in the previous step, a memory signal to a portable card in the plurality of cards, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and the step of subsequently, moving the portable card to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of receiving the memory signal from the portable card,

to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, there is a processing system for a second system including a first computer, a second computer, a plurality of portable cards each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable cards to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links. The processing system comprises circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals, wherein the second system further includes a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a signal corresponding to a product, from a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable card in the plurality of cards, the memory signal corresponding to the product.

According to yet another aspect of the present invention, there is a method in a system including a store, a plurality of portable cards each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links. The method comprises sending, from a first computer, a first signal to the routing system, the first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive the first signal; and the step, performed in one of the homes, of sending, responsive to the signal corresponding to a product received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable card in the plurality of cards, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and the step of subsequently, moving the portable card to the store, and the step, performed in the store, of receiving the memory signal from the portable card, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Page 5, after line 7, insert the paragraph:

Fig. 19 is a flow chart of a possible processing in the preferred system.

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Page 7, replace the paragraph beginning at line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

The data packet from computer 230 includes a destination address field allowing computer 238 to recognize that the data packet is to be received by computer 238. Computer 238 has an address on both LAN 115 and WAN 130, meaning that computer 238 has circuitry for recognizing an its own address in a network-115-formatted packet sent over network 115, and has circuitry for recognizing an its own address in a network-130-formatted packet sent over network 130. Thus, computer 238 acts to route packets between networks 115 ~~155~~ and 130. In other words, computer 238 includes circuitry, responsive to an address on network 115, for receiving a packet in the format of network 115, containing an electronic coupon identifying a certain product, and for sending a second packet in the format of network 130, the second packet containing a signal identifying the certain product. When computer 238 receives a packet destined for computer 276, computer 238 constructs a packet addressed to computer 272, using the protocol for network 130.

Page 14, replace the paragraph beginning at line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Checkout station 900 then scans the products and determines a price for each product depending on whether the customer card contains coupons for the scanned product (step 9035). More specifically, the customer redeems the electronic coupons at the checkout area, by inserting her customer card into checkout station 915. For example, a customer such as customer 240 in Fig. 7B completes the purchase of her selected products 243 ~~293~~ by transferring products 243 from her cart 242 to counter 900, and by inserting card 245 into checkout station 915. Subsequently, a checkout clerk (not shown) scans each selected product past UPC bar code reader 910. Bar code reader 910 is an optical detector. In other words, bar code reader 910 detects an electromagnetic signal. A processor coupled to station 915 and reader 910 determines whether the most recently scanned product is on a discount list stored in card 245 ~~295~~. If the most recently scanned product is identified in this discount list, a price for the product is determined using the discount data corresponding to the product, and the resulting price is displayed on display 917. Checkout counter 900 scans and processes each product 243 ~~293~~ in a similar manner.

Page 15, replace the paragraph beginning at line 12, with the following amended

paragraph:

Because of the large number of electronic coupons that may be available to a customer, a customer such as customer 310 may wish to insert their card into display station 710, to review what coupons are currently stored on the card. Station 710 may also present the viewer with additional information about the products identified by the coupons on the card. Station 710 is described in detail in ~~copending~~ application of KEN R. POWELL for SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING PRODUCT INFORMATION IN A RETAIL SYSTEM, Serial No. 08/603,483, filed on February 20, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,890,135 issued March 30, 1999, the contents of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Page 17, replace the paragraph beginning at line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

An alternate scheme is to have the user of PC 400 join a club, by invoking the browser to select Hypertext in a document advertising the club. The club is essentially a mailing list for certain types of coupons. Selection of the hypertext invokes a Form in the document, causing the browser to prompt the user for her Email address, accept the Email address as keyboard input from the user, and construct an Email message addressed to the server on node 230. The message contains the Email address given by the user and data identifying the club corresponding to the selected hypertext. Upon receiving the message, the coupon server adds the Email address to the list for the club identified in the message. Subsequently, some event causes the coupon server to send a coupon to each address in the list. (Fig. 19).

Page 17, replace the paragraph beginning at line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

One such event would be receipt, by the coupon server, of an Email message from a coupon issuer. (Fig. 19 step 1). The coupon issuer may be a distributor of the product corresponding to the coupon. The coupon server, in this case, acts as "mail exploder," and essentially echoes the single Email message from the coupon issuer to each member of the list. (Fig. 19 step 2).

Page 23, replace the paragraph beginning at line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 16 shows aspects of the processing of step 9035 of Fig. 9. The processing of Fig. 16 is processing performed by CPU 950 and program 922 in checkout counter 900, when a customer checks out of store 1000. When a customer, such as customer

290, inserts customer card <u>190</u> 295 into interface slot 914, a switch (not shown) in interface slot 914 alerts CPU 950 that a card has been inserted into the slot.  When a customer card is in interface slot 914, conductive contacts (not shown) inside interface slot 914 touch each card contact 2420.  Subsequently, CPU 950 causes card interface 925 to reset the card by applying a clock signal to card contact 2423.  (If the card is a customer card, the card then answers the reset by sending a block of data, including identification data 2467 and authorization data 2468, through card contact 2427.)  CPU 950 then receives the answer-to-reset from the card (step 16002).  CPU 950 then sends a data block containing a station-type code indicating a checkout station (step 16004).  CPU 950 then receives the contents of table 2435 in memory 2460 of the customer card, and temporarily stores these table  contents in memory 920 of the checkout station (step 16005).  During step <u>16005</u> 10005, CPU 950 also causes customer card <u>190</u> 295 to remove all entries from list 2435, so that the electronic coupons in the list cannot be redeemed again.  When the checkout clerk (not shown) moves a product past UPC reader 910, UPC reader 910 detects the UPC code on the product and sends the UPC code to CPU 750 (step 16010).  CPU 950 searches the received table contents to determine whether the product scanned is identified in the table (step 16020).  If the product is not in the received table, CPU 950 displays the price (step 16040).  If the product is in the received table, CPU 950 subtracts the discount, as determined by the discount data stored in the received table, from a product reference price read from disk 925 (step 16030), and displays the resulting price of the product on display 917 (step 16040).  If there are products remaining (step 16042), processing proceeds to step 16010.  If there are no products remaining, processing proceeds to step 16044 for display of the total price.

Page 25, replace the paragraph beginning at line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 18 shows a block diagram of a preferred retail system including a clearinghouse <u>990</u> 900, and a plurality of checkout stations 900.  Periodically, checkout counter 900 sends redemption data to an electronic clearing house.  The redemption data sent to the clearing house includes the identification of the store, identification of the coupons redeemed and of respective quantities of coupon redemptions.  Periodically, checkout counter 900 sends redemption data to a market research center.  The redemption data sent to the research center includes the identification of the store and of the customers who presented electronic coupons for redemption.  The checkout stations send the redemption data blocks, over telephone signal paths 714.

Page 26, replace the paragraph beginning at line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

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    Other applications of electronic coupons are the subject of copending application of KEN R. POWELL for RETAIL SYSTEM, Serial No. 08/468,816, filed on June 6, 1995, <u>resulting in U.S. Patent 6,105,002</u> ~~now U.S. Patent No. 5,727,153 issued March 10, 1998~~, the contents of which is herein incorporated by reference; of copending application of KEN R. POWELL for DEVICE AND METHOD OF PROGRAMMING A RETAIL SYSTEM, Serial No. 08/468,820, filed on June 6, 1995, <u>now U.S. Patent No. 5,727,153,</u> the contents of which is herein incorporated by reference.

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